

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradbury, et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,929,818 (Bradbury), in view of Cahill U.S. Patent No. 4,285,426 (Cahill). Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradbury as modified by Cahill in view of Matthias, U.S. Patent No. 6,151,587 (Matthias). Claims 2 and 6-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradbury as modified by Cahill in view of Stefan (JP 06-277,231) (Stefan). Claims 14 and 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradbury in view of Hovakimian, U.S. Patent No. 5,466,919 (Hovakimian). Claim 15 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but is indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Examiner's attention to the present application is greatly appreciated, and has facilitated prosecution. The Examiner's interview summary is accurate, and the receipt of the same acknowledged and appreciated by applicant's representative. The Examiner's reconsideration of the outstanding rejections in view of the present amendment and remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 - 13 are currently canceled. Claim 14 has been amended to include all of the limitations of original claim 15, which depended from claim 14. In view of the indicated novelty of claim 15, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

These amendments are believed to place the present application in condition for allowance, in view of the above remarks, and no new matter is introduced. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections and indicate the patentability. If there remain open issues in this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at 320-363-7296 to further discuss the advancement of this application. While no fees are believed due, please charge any fees associated with this correspondence to deposit account 17-0155.

Sincerely,



Albert W. Watkins

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